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**THE SEMI-WEEKLY ASTORIAN.**

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**ASTORIAN PUBLISHING COMPANY.****THE GAME OF POLITICS.**

Politics makes strange bedfellows. If you play the game you make strange—even fantastic—friends and a variety of enemies. Your friends become your enemies and your enemies your friends. The extent to which you unconsciously cook up for yourself the pill of sentiment depends altogether upon who you are—how important a part you play upon the political stage.

No better evidence of the vagaries of the game can be offered than the situation of affairs in Portland. The only really "big" man the Pacific coast ever produced is mayor of that community. George H. Williams was an important factor in our national life at one time, and that he should, in his declining years, have been cursed with the mayoralty of the Oregon metropolis, abounding with scheming grafters and blood-thirsty politicians and overzealous reformers, who have attacked him at every turn, is a matter of extreme regret.

Mr. Williams is the "fair" mayor of Portland. The city must put itself in shape for the 1905 celebration, no matter what the cost. To successfully prepare for the event every possible source of revenue must be employed. The gambling element was an excellent source of revenue. Its monthly tributes would provide the hard-pressed municipality with funds to repair the dilapidated streets and otherwise get ready for the fair. The reform element protested loudly, but the commercial interests were too strong for it. During the agitation the question was, "What will the mayor do?" The state officials, as should everywhere be the case, passed up to the city the matter of permitting gambling. Some communities favor "open town" methods, and in such matters it is always advisable to permit the city authorities to regulate affairs. The reform element had the unqualified backing of the three Portland newspapers which took turns at denouncing the fine old gentleman who is at the head of the municipal government. At that particular stage of the proceedings, which doubtless was "the time" (see George C. Brownell's Memoirs), it stood a certain class of politicians in hand to vilify the mayor. The interests of an aspiring gentleman demanded it.

But things have changed somewhat, and the mayor is now immune. He needs no more abuse, thanks to amalgamation of the designers who have taken sides in the struggle. If any other scapegoat can be found he shall be put upon the rack. The mayor declined to close gambling because the city needed the money. He is not personally favorable to open town methods, but there was no other course open to him. It was up to the city to get the money, and the mayor was forced to accept the only situation offering itself.

Now, however, a new man has come to the front to receive the abuse that erstwhile went to the distinguished mayor. District Attorney Manning is the gentleman upon whom the Oregonian has turned its heavy guns, and he is hereafter to be the "fall guy" in the centennial drama. The district attorney has been appealed to by the woman whose husband lost her money playing "21" at Erickson's. He has stated his intention of recovering it for her. For this act he is derided in the columns of the wabbling Oregonian, which holds up the circumstance as proof conclusive that the mayor, whom it formerly vilified, is not to be blamed for the gambler's carnival. "Why has not the district attorney done his duty and closed the games?" it cries out. "Why should he take cognizance of this particular case, after having ignored others for months?" it wails; and attributes it all to "highly respectable and contemptible humbug." Even the Journal, possessed of a "fiery democratic spirit," ridicules the matter, and suggests to the district attorney that he is afforded a rare opportunity of playing to the galleries—such as galleries go in Portland.

Portland is practically all of Multnomah county, and it is only fair that the state should permit the city to decree in problems directly affecting the mun-

icipality; but it is sincerely to be hoped Mr. Manning will persevere his determination to recover the money of the unfortunate woman, however much the Oregonian may object to a situation that threatens to cut off the revenue so badly needed at the present time—however much it may desire to atone at his expense for its past political offenses. When the Oregonian finally awakens to realization that the presidency of the fair board bears the same relation to senatorial aspirations that the vice-presidency of the United States bears to presidential desires, Mr. Manning will be out of office, and may complacently view the fireworks without a chance of personal or political indignity.

**THE HEALERS OF MANKIND.**

For centuries fantastic theorists have been setting forth supposed causes of cancer and of leprosy: but physicians generally have refused to accept as verified the manifold whimsical notions as to the origins of these diseases, says the New York Tribune. It is evident enough that in certain parts of the world cancer and leprosy, like tuberculosis and smallpox, are more prevalent and virulent than in other regions. Possibly there may be cancer "belts" and leprosy "belts," so to speak; but as the years go on the medical profession is gaining ground in fighting these enemies of health and vitality in various territories and areas.

Beyond question a great deal has been accomplished in lessening the death rate from pulmonary consumption in both hemispheres where competent doctors have had a free field for efficacious treatment. Cancer and leprosy and the bubonic pestilence are still baffling problems for the ablest men in the world to solve, as to their beginnings, their progress and their treatment. But study and investigation on the part of pathologists have been of late so persistent and energetic that notable discoveries which may tend to mitigate suffering from such affections may be brought to view at any time.

Who would have dreamed a century ago of the possibility of the finding out of anaesthetics and the ending of pain in surgical operations? For thousands of years amputations and the use of the knife upon the wounded had been attended with unavoidable suffering and agony for the patients. Within much less than a hundred years surgery has become practically painless. Who then should give up hope that cancer, leprosy and tuberculosis—yea, even rheumatism itself, that protean curse of the race—may yet yield completely to the skill of the healers?

**FEDERAL BRIGADE NOT WANTED**

The republican national committee is said to have sent word to the republicans of Texas not to send any federal office holders to the national convention, says the Ledger. This suggestion is said to have been made at the suggestion of the president himself, because he does not wish to be charged with having secured a nomination through the influence of his own appointments.

In 1884 President Arthur refused to permit a member of his cabinet to go to the convention as his representative, lest it should be said he sent a member of his political family to dictate his nomination or to use undue influence to secure it. His secretary of the navy had expected to go, and had made preparation to go, but at the last hour before he was to start the president requested him not to go, and he did not go. This undoubtedly cost him the nomination, for it left his supporters without the aid of a leader they had counted on, and consequently more or less at a disadvantage. The secretary was an experienced and skilful political manager. He had rendered Mr. Blaine very efficient service in former campaigns particularly in that of 1880. Had he gone to Chicago as he would, had the president not practically forbidden, Mr. Arthur would have been nominated and the party would not have been beaten as it was by a very narrow margin.

Two little children of Rochester were sitting in a room one evening after dark, with their faces pressed to the window and their eyes fixed on the stars. For some time they contemplated the firmament in silence then suddenly one of the little fellows turned to the other one and said: "Wasn't God a nice man to give us the stars for a light?" "Oh, Teddy, how can you say such a thing?" said the other boy much shocked. "You shouldn't call God a man. If there ever was a gentleman, He's one!"

A blind man at Homestead, Penn., was struck by a trolley car recently and when he recovered consciousness he found that the jar he had received had restored his eyesight. The Springfield Republican suggests that the road will probably sue him to recover a sum for surgical operation.

From the scramble of leading democrats for the presidential nomination, one would think it a joy to be beaten.

The Portland Police have actually caught a burglar He should be placed in the city hall museum.

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